

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18049

FOR EUR/SOV AND S/MS (SHULMAN)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BGEN, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CRAWFORD ARREST - U.S. LAWYERS GROUP MEETS
CRAWFORD

SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT MAY BE CONTACTED IN NEAR FUTURE
BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THIRTY-TWO PERSON DELEGATION
OF INFLUENTIAL U.S. JURISTS WHO HAVE HEARD CRAWFORD
STORY FIRST-HAND IN MOSCOW. THEY ARE EAGER TO TAKE
UP CUDGEL ON CRAWFORD'S BEHALF BUT HAVE BEEN
ADVISED TO SEEK ADVICE OF DEPARTMENT ON TIMING
AND MEANS. END SUMMARY.

1. FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 28, SEVEN-MAN SUB-GROUP OF
32-MAN PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE LAWYERS DELEGATION TO EUROPE
AND RUSSIA, MET WITH F. J. CRAWFORD FOR TWO AND HALF
HOUR DETAILED DISCUSSION OF LATTER'S CASE. MEETING
TOOK PLACE AT COMATT'S HOME, WITH COMATT AND CONSOFF
PRESENT. CRAWFORD DISCUSSED OPENLY WITH GROUP:
(A) DETAILS OF HIS ARREST; (B) CHARGES AGAINST HIM;
(C) FULL BACKGROUND OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN SOVIET
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UNION WHICH APPEARED TO TOUCH ON HIS CASE; AND
(D) HIS SUMMONS TO APPEAR AT LEFORTOVO PRISON MONDAY
MORNING, JULY 31. HE DID NOT PROVIDE DETAILS ON
CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT OTHER THAN STATEMENT THAT
DESCRIPTIONS CONTAINED IN SOLZHENITSYN'S "GULAG
ARCHIPELAGO" WERE NOT EXAGGERATED.

2. SUB-GROUP ARRIVED AT MEETING UNCONVINCED OF CRAWFORD'S INNOCENCE, AND DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE CROSS-EXAMINATION EFFORT TO DETERMINING WHETHER SOVIETS HAD PEGS OF EVEN SEMI-ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES UPON WHICH TO HANG A CASE AGAINST HIM. AT CLOSE OF EVENING, THEY EXPRESSED THEIR CONVICTION THAT U.S. JURY WOULD DISMISS CASE OUT-OF-HAND.

3. LAWYERS INDICATED THEY WOULD BE BACK IN U.S. AUGUST 4 AND WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE TO GIVE PUBLIC AIRING OF THEIR FINDINGS AT IMPENDING NATIONWIDE MEETING OF AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION. BOTH CRAWFORD AND COMATT EXPRESSED OPINION THAT TIMING PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT APPROPRIATE FOR SUCH PUBLIC APPROACH. COMATT RECOMMENDED INSTEAD THAT THEY CONTACT DEPARTMENT TO EXPRESS BOTH THEIR (A) FIRST-HAND FAMILIARITY WITH CRAWFORD'S CASE AND (B) INTEREST IN TAKING ACTIVE STEPS ON CRAWFORD'S BEHALF AT SUCH TIME AS DEPARTMENT MIGHT ADVISE TO BE APPROPRIATE.

4. COMMENT: DELEGATION CONTAINS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF SENIOR JURISTS FROM CORPORATIONS, GOVERNMENT, LAW FIRMS AND ACADEMIA (OVERALL DELEGATION LEADER WAS DEAN OF UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LAW SCHOOL, ERNEST GELLHORN). DEPARTMENT CAN EXPECT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BE CONTACTED SOON, PROBABLY WEEK OF AUGUST 7 AND PROBABLY BY CHARLES H. MILLER OF MARSHALL, BRATTER, GREENE, ALLISON AND TUCKER (N.Y.) OR E. BARRETT PRETTYMAN, JR., OF HOGAN AND HARTSON (D.C.). BOTH MILLER AND PRETTYMAN WERE PRESENT AT JULY 28 MEETING WITH CRAWFORD. MILLER INDICATED HE KNEW AMBASSADOR SHULMAN AND WOULD CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY. END COMMENT. TOON

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